

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. Although I am a EchoStar customer, I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me because the combined company will provide increased competition to cable companies.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

Broadband access to the Internet is not available to me at this time. If the merger is approved, the new company will be able to provide me with affordable high-speed Internet access via satellite along with the other 40 million American households who do not have affordable high-speed Internet access now.

If the merger does not take place, I fear that I will be forced to pay much higher prices for Satellite service once local channels are required to be broadcast over the satellite. There is no cable service in our area. Where I live, the merger will be a win-win situation for all of us.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Stephen Kennedy
283 Townline Road
Springfield, ME 04487